

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 01587 210957Z  
ACTION PM-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 TEDE-00 INR-00  
ADS-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SS-00 PMB-00 /001W  
-----749AC9 210958Z /38

O 210822Z SEP 94  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0057

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 001587

NOFORN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: MARR  
SUBJECT: EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR ETHIOPIAN BATTALION

1. (C) DURING AN OFFICE CALL WITH AMBASSADOR RAWSON AND LTC'S COBB AND ODOM, SENIOR ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO UNAMIR HEADQUARTERS PROVIDED SOME INSIGHTS ON THEIR BATTALION'S OPERATIONS IN SECTOR 4. DURING THOSE DISCUSSIONS, AMBASSADOR RAWSON ASKED THEM IF THE ETHIOPIAN UNIT NEED ANYTHING TO BETTER PERFORM ITS MISSION. THE OFFICERS RESPONDED WITH THE FOLLOWING

-TENTAGE FOR 800 PLUS TROOPS. BOTH OFFICERS SAID THE TROOPS ARE LIVING IN SHELTER HALVES THAT MAKE A TWO-MAN PUP TENT.

-STOVES AND REFRIGERATION THAT WOULD ALLOW THE UNITS TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON MILITARY RATIONS THAT THE ETHIOPIAN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KIGALI 01587 210957Z  
TROOPS DO NOT LIKE IN THE FIRST PLACE

-NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT FOR PATROLLING AND OBSERVATION POINTS

-FLAK VESTS. BOTH OFFICERS COMMENTED THEY HAVE 200 FLAK VESTS FOR 800 SOLDIERS

-ADDITIONAL AMBULANCES. THE UNIT HAD TWO BUT ONE WAS DESTROYED OR SEVERELY DAMAGED IN AN ACCIDENT

## UNCLASSIFIED

2. (C) IT IS APPARENT THAT THE UN IS BEHIND IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE DEPLOYING UNITS IN UNAMIR. SHELTER HALVES WILL NOT SERVE THE TROOPS WELL WHEN THE RAINY SEASON GETS UNDERWAY. ONCE THE RAINS START, THOSE PUP TENTS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP DRY MUCH LESS WARM. GIVEN RPA FEARS OVER THE THREAT OF EX-FAR INFILTRATION, NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT FOR THE TROOPS ON PATROL OR ON OBSERVATION POSTS ARE OPERATIONALLY CRITICAL. THE NEED FOR FLAK VESTS AT LEAST FOR ALL THE LINE TROOPS IS EQUALLY PRESSING. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR AMBULANCES. IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT IN CYANGUNGU, THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL COMMANDER TO OFFER RAPID MEDICAL EVACUATION TO HIS OWN TROOPS OR TO THE LOCALS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING UNIT AND CIVILIAN CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION.

3. THE SUPPORT GAP IS APPARENTLY NOT LIMITED TO THE ETHIOPIAN BATTALION. IN A RECENT MEETING WITH DAS BUSHNELL FORCE COMMANDER TOUSIGNANT COMPLAINED THAT TROOPS HAD COME IN WITH 30 DAYS SUPPLIGS WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT UN LOGISTICS SUPPORT WOULD IN PLACE BY THAT TIME. THAT HAD NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KIGALI 01587 210957Z  
HAPPENED. EFFORTS TO OUTFIT THE TROOPS (E.G. TUNISIAN BATTALION) AND AIRLIFT THEM TO RWANDA (ZAMBIANS) WERE INCOMPLETE AND POORLY COORDINATED. WORSE STILL, TROOPS HAD NOT BEEN PAID, WITH INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR MORALE.

4. POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING THIS ISSUE TO THE UN'S ATTENTION FOR URGENT ACTION. THE ETHIOPIAN BATTALION WAS DEPLOYED QUICKLY DUE TO THE NEED TO REPLACE THE FRENCH WHEN THEY PULLED OUT OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ZONE IN LATE AUGUST. IN MEETING THAT DEADLINE, THE BATTALION HAD TO COME IN LESS THAN FULLY EQUIPPED. SO FAR, THEY HAVE GOTTEN HIGH MARKS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE; THE UN HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND ENSURE THAT THEY AND ALL UNAMIR TROOPS GET THE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES THEY REQUIRE AND THAT THEY ARE PROMPTLY PAID. IF SUPPLIES ARE IN THE PIPELINE, THEY NEED TO BE EXPEDITED. IF NOT, A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO ADDRESS THESE NEEDS. THE USG HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE OUTFITTING AND AIRLIFTING OF UNAMIR TROOPS; WE HOPE THE UN WILL PRESS OTHERS TO CONTRIBUTE IN ORDER TO ENSURE A COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE UNAMIR FORCE.

RAWSON

UNCLASSIFIED